

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending in the present application and are rejected. Claims 1, 6-9, 13-15, 17, 18, and 20 are herein amended. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview of January 19, 2006. Applicants' formal response to the comments of the interview is incorporated herein.

**Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112**

**Claims 8, 9, 15, 17, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.**

It is the position of the Office Action that the recitation of "at least two positioning slits" is indefinite because it is unclear if the two slits include the slit set forth in the above claims. Furthermore, the Office Action notes that the recitation of "a side wall" is indefinite because it is unclear if the "side wall" refers to the wall set forth in the above claims. In response, Applicants herein amend the claims in order to clarify the slits and side wall. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, the Office Action notes that the recitation of "a trim board disposed inside of the elevating window" in claim 18 is unclear because it is unclear if the subcombination of a sealing structure or the combination of a sealing structure and an elevating window is being claimed. In response, Applicants note that the elevating window is merely recited functionally, to provide a location of the trim board. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102**

**Claims 1, 3-5, 13, 15, 17, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 06-247143 (JP '143).**

It is the position of the Office Action that **JP '143** discloses the invention as claimed. Specifically, the Office Action notes that **JP '143** discloses “a sealing lip 39 formed integrally with an exterior side of the fitting portion to be in elastic contact with an inner surface of the elevating window 21.”

**JP '143** discloses three embodiments. In the first embodiment, illustrated in Figure 1, there are three distinct resin parts: Door trim 25, installing clip 23, and weather strip 22. Installing clip 23 attaches to the door panel 20 via a downward opening U-shaped portion 27. Installing clip 23 contains a fitting member 24 which acts in conjunction with weather strip 22 to attach door trim 25. Installing clip 23 also contains an upward opening U-shaped area 30 which attaches to weather strip 22. Weather strip 22 also attaches to a portion 29 of installing clip 23.

The second embodiment, illustrated in Figure 2 of **JP '143**, discloses a metal installing clip 23 and two distinct resin parts: Door trim 25 and weather strip 22. Metal installing clip 23 attaches to the door panel 20. Metal installing clip 23 also contains a fitting member 24 formed as an upward opening U-shaped area to attach door trim 25, as well as an upward opening U-shaped area 30 which attaches to weather strip 22.

The third embodiment, illustrated in Figure 3 of **JP '143**, discloses three distinct resin parts: Door trim 25, installing clip 23 and weather strip 22. Installing clip 23 attaches to door

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panel 20 via a downward opening U-shaped portion 27, and contains an upward opening U-shaped portion 30 which attaches to weather strip 22. Installing clip 23 attaches to weather strip 22 and projection 45. Unlike the first embodiment, the door trim 25 is attached to a fitting portion 24, formed as an upward opening U-shaped portion of weather strip 22.

On the other hand, claims 1 and 13 both recite:

a fitting portion to be attached to the door inner panel; and  
a sealing lip formed integrally with an exterior side of the fitting portion to be in elastic contact with an inner surface of the elevating window,  
wherein the fitting portion has an upward opening groove fittable with the downward flange portion.

In response to the rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 1 of **JP ‘143** does not disclose “a sealing lip formed integrally with an exterior side of the fitting portion to be in elastic contact with an inner surface of the elevating window.” In Figure 1, the sealing lips 39 and 40 are formed integrally with the weather strip 22. However, in Figure 1, the weather strip 22 is not attached to door panel 20. Instead, weather strip 22 is attached to installing clip 23, which is attached to the door panel 20. Installing clip 23 is analogous to the fitting portion of the claimed invention, since it attaches to the door panel. It is evident from Figure 1 that weather strip 22 and installing clip 23 are distinct components and are not integrally formed. Please see attached enlarged Figure 1. Applicants also respectfully submit that Figures 2 and 3 of **JP ‘143** also do not disclose the invention as claimed. Thus, **JP ‘143** does not disclose a sealing lip “formed integrally” with a fitting portion as claimed.

Additionally, in order to further distinguish over the cited art, Applicants herein amend claim 1 in order to recite:

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the upward opening groove has a projection projecting from a wall of the upward opening groove, the projection extending longitudinally along the entire length of the vehicle inner belt molding.

In JP '143, the installing clip 23 and any projections incorporated therein, do not extend for the entire length of the weatherstrip 22. Instead, a plurality of clips 23 are spaced along the length of the door panel 20 in order to attach the weatherstrip 22. Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that JP '143 does not disclose the invention as claimed.

**Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

**Claims 6-10, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '143 in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 07-237448 (JP '448).**

It is the position of the Office Action that JP '448 provides the teachings of an inner belt molding comprising a fitting portion having positioning slits which are engageable with positioning ribs. In response, Applicants respectfully argue that dependent claims 6-10 and 14 are patentable due to their direct and indirect dependency on claims 1 and 13, which Applicants submit are patentable for the reasons disclosed above.

With regard to independent claim 18, it is noted that claim 18 contains the similar recitations as those in claims 1 and 13 discussed above. Therefore, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the same grounds as discussed with regard to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) discussed above.

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**Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '143 in view of Arata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,837,005).**

It is the position of the Office Action that **Arata** provides the teachings of an inner belt molding comprising a fitting portion made of a thermoplastic elastomer material and further comprising sealing lips made of a material which is capable of fusion bonding and is softer and more elastic than the fitting portion.

In response, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 12 are patentable due to their dependency on claim 1, which Applicants argue is patentable for the reasons discussed above.

**Claims 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '143 in view of Dupuy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,447,065).**

It is the position of the Office Action that **Dupuy** provides the teachings of a projecting holding lip provided on a bottom wall of a mounting groove. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16 and 19 are patentable due to their dependency on claims 13 and 18, which Applicants argue are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

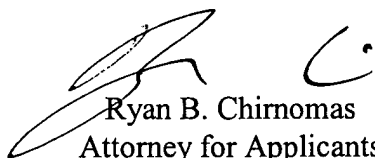
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned agent.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosure:    Enlarged Figure 1 from JP '143